

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 28 2007

1. Name of Property

2. Location

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

State or Federal agency and bureau

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Fresh Air Baby Camp
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE / Hospital

SOCIAL / Civic

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STUCCO; CONCRETE
Walls: STUCCO

Roof: TERRA COTTA

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH / MEDICINE

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920-1956

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Schmidt, Lorenz (architect)

Siedhoff Construction Company

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	6	4	5	2	6	0	4	1	7	4	0	6	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
Zone			Easting						Northing						
4															

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Kathy L. Morgan, Senior Planner; Barbara Hammond, Planning Analyst
Organization City of Wichita - Historic Preservation Office Date July 23, 2005
Street & number 455 N Main, 10th Floor Telephone 316-268-4421
City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67202-1688

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name City of Wichita
Street & number 455 N Main Telephone 316-268-4351
City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67202

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman and Prairie School

Architectural Description Overview

The Fresh Air Baby Camp is a one-story concrete structure with Prairie and Craftsman influences built in 1921. It is six bays wide by one room deep. The building is centrally located in North Riverside Park and is accessed from West 11th Street. Typical of the Craftsman and Prairie influences, the building has a low-pitched, side hipped roof covered with exposed rafter tails and green French interlocking tiles that are original to the building. The windows are triple-hung wood sash windows with four lights in each sash with continuous sills and are uniform through the building. There are ten windows in the north elevation, eight windows in the south elevation, two in the west elevation and two in the east elevation. Modern aluminum storms have been installed. The walls have been painted white.

North Elevation

The north elevation is the primary façade and faces 11th Street. The building is six bays wide with the pedimented entrance located in the third bay from the east end. Simple triangular brackets situated under the eave flank the entrance. Two freestanding wood posts (not original) support the pediment. All of the other bays on the north elevation contain two, triple-hung wood sash windows with four lights in each sash. The wood door has a beveled glass panel and was originally flanked by two beveled sidelights, now covered with wood. The original screen door remains.

East Elevation

The east elevation contains two planes. On the eastern most plane there are two windows and the side door that opens into the kitchen. The kitchen door is wood panel with an original screen door. There is a concrete landing with brick foundation that steps down to grade. Stepped back one bay width is the east wall of the restroom. There are no windows in this wall, but the sill course continues. The flat roof of the veranda connects at the southeast corner of the hipped roof. Two piers support the east edge of the veranda roof.

South Elevation

The building has a projecting room with a hipped cross gable roof off the south elevation. This room contains the restroom and an exterior access door off the covered concrete veranda. The veranda extends the full width of the building. Seven concrete piers support the roof structure at the edge of the concrete patio. The flat roof ties into the wall of the structure beneath the eave overhand leaving the rafter tails

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exposed. This veranda was not original to the building and was added sometime after 1959¹. The original exterior wall has the same fenestration pattern as the rest of the structure.

West Elevation

The west elevation is dominated by a limestone end-wall chimney with a window on either side. The chimney pot rises through the roof structure. The stone is laid a coursed fieldstone pattern.

Interior

The interior of the structure was designed to be open to allow for cross ventilation. The front door leads into a partition room (not original) that houses the heating system and storage area. On the south wall, a wood panel door opens out onto the rear patio. The access to the restroom facility is to the east of the exterior door on the south wall. A large open room lies to the west of the storage area. The walls have been paneled and the ceiling has acoustical tile. The floor has been covered with carpeting. The fireplace at the west end of the room has the same limestone pattern as the exterior of the fireplace. The kitchen is located at the east end of the building and has a door that opens out to an exterior landing.

¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Wichita, Kansas, 1959.

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Statement of Significance Overview

The Fresh Air Baby Camp is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Health/Medicine and Social History, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

Criterion A: The structure provided a refuge with nursing care and sanitary conditions for infants whose health, or very lives, was at risk within the existing hospital system of the time. A host of Wichita community leaders, principally women, brought the plan into existence by providing organization and securing financial support. Much of the labor and building materials were donated by local businesses.

Criterion C: The building represents the work of prominent Wichita architect, Lorentz Schmidt (1884-1952) and was constructed by George Siedhoff Construction, a major company in Wichita's construction history.

Criterion A –Health Care, Hospital and Social History

The Fresh Air Baby Camp

In the era of reform at the turn of the 20th century, community spirit in Wichita supported an effort to aid families of little means by providing health care and nurture to premature or sick infants. The efforts expanded into progressive maternity care for new mothers and taught them to raise their children in sanitary and healthful conditions.

The Progressive Era of Social Reform

In the last quarter of the 19th century, doctors and scientists began to gain a better understanding of the source of illness. Public health efforts like campaigns to pasteurize milk and smallpox vaccinations for children led to a decline in infant and child mortality. Health improvements in urban areas continued into the early 20th century. Improved sanitation services and treated municipal water systems made cities healthier for growing children.

Social reformers of the era from 1870 to 1930 recognized the gap between rich and poor. Industrial workers were living in squalor while some insensitive wealthy flaunted their economic and political power. They found the lives of poor urban children to be deprived, perilous, and lacking a "right to childhood" as compared to the ideal lives of middle-class children.

In the early 20th century public attitudes toward the role of government began to shift. Progressives sought to remedy social problems through government initiative. They saw social problems as the result of social

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conditions, not as the result of individual failings. They proposed that solutions lay in charging local government to address community needs rather than in charging parents with negligence and low moral fiber.

On a local level of social problems, Wichita city officials began to struggle in 1897 with the question of how to provide adequate drinking water to the residents. The debate centered on whether the city should control the water company or whether it should continue to contract with a private water company. Some resolution was found in 1911, however, bitter political battles that ensued throughout the next forty years indicated that the issue seemed to be driven more by political interests than a concern for safety. In spite of the argument over control, Wichita did have a public water system as early as the 1890s.

Other political issues also impacted the health and safety of Wichitans. In 1909 Wichita instituted a city commission form of government, but by 1917 that system came under criticism by the general public and specifically, by the newly formed Greater Wichita Civic League. In speaking on behalf of the "clean citizenship", the League President stated that it was time for "the so-called good people, the so-called church people to assert themselves". The public criticized the commission system, claiming that Commissioners often voted a budget at the expense of health, sanitation, safety, convenience, and police services.

A call to organize a city manager form of government was justified by the need to operate the city in a more business-like manner. This system would provide a budget constructed by the hired manager that would attend to the needs of the city rather than being directed by elected Commissioners who, in a conflict of interest, also headed the various city departments.

The national movement to improve cleanliness continued to fuel an understanding of health and well being in Wichita. Activities such as the "Don't Spit on the Sidewalk" campaign educated the public about the role of bacteria in their daily lives. Wichita followed national examples by controlling sewers, reducing water pollution, regulating milk production, cleaning up the "pest house", and instituting garbage collection. These activities aided the local public determination to reduce infant mortality.

By 1915, Wesley Hospital had already dedicated itself to the care of mothers and infants by establishing a department known as the Mothers Room. This facility was in the original hospital location at the corner of 10th and St. Francis Streets. Shortly after, a separate Maternity Annex became the first maternity hospital in Wichita and signaled the "start of Wesley's historic commitment to the healthcare of women". In 1918 recognition that certain infants could thrive in the summer months if removed from the stuffy confines of hospitals caused the staff to establish a separate unit for infants in a tent in the back yard of the hospital where they were cared for in a ventilated, insect-free environment.

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The Baby Hospital Camp/Fresh Air Baby Camp

When women were nationally granted the right to vote in 1920, the progressive inclination toward government activism was strengthened by the expectation that women would vote as a block in favor of public services and programs geared to helping families with children.

In Wichita, women's solidarity had already taken form in 1919 with the move to assist the special tent ward for poor and ailing infants at Wesley Hospital by moving it to a more pastoral setting. The *Wichita Eagle* stated that, "The idea was first suggested by Dr. Howard Norton and taken up by a number of good women of the city who have pushed it to a final success...." Designated as the Baby Hospital Camp, the effort was governed by an executive board of fifteen members, all women. They were the wives of wealthy and influential men who included doctors, lawyers, bankers, newspaper owners, retailers, and wholesalers. Mrs. Campbell, a local woman was elected President; the Governor's wife Mrs. Henry J. Allen, also of Wichita, was named Honorary President. About 90 associate members made up the rest of the working group.

The Baby Hospital organizers were typical of national activists in their desire to improve children's health and acted on their impulse in the best way they saw fit. Their goal was to provide a larger, more efficient facility than the original tent, which had become too small for the program. The ladies secured a park setting on Eleventh Street just west of Forest Avenue, built a new tent structure for infant care and brought over the original tent to be used as a kitchen. A breezeway connected the two structures and screens, electric lights, and fans were installed to make the facility comfortable and sanitary. Student nurses under the supervision of the city nurses' association staffed the camp.

The goal of the organizers was "to take care of the little babies whose parents are not able to properly care for them when affliction comes". They intended that no charges would be attached to the care they provided; the funds were raised by membership fees and donations.

Five years after Wesley Hospital experimented with the original Baby Hospital Camp, Congress passed the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921). This federal-state program intended to improve prenatal care, reduce infant mortality, and improve the health of young children. The legislation provided funding to encourage state efforts to protect maternal and child health (ultimately, the program was opposed by the American Medical Association on grounds that it constituted socialized medicine. By 1929 political conservatism led to the end of the program). There is no mention in the Wichita media of any state or federal funding that assisted the development of the Baby Camp. In contrast, the news articles give lengthy credit to the monetary and in-kind contributions of private individuals, local businesses, and community fund-raising activities.

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Through the next few years, the citizens of Wichita gave money, time, and materials to improve the facility. Their dedication to the cause was tested almost immediately by the need to replace it when the park structure was destroyed by fire that occurred prior to its second season on June 5, 1920. The facility was not occupied at the time.

In an amazing show of loyalty, the community rallied. Seven days after the fire the newspapers announced on June 12 that the camp would be rebuilt immediately. Donations of \$3246 had already been collected, including a \$1000 donation from City Manager L.W. Clapp. Noted Wichita architect Lorentz Schmidt had volunteered to design the new structure, and George Siedhoff had committed his prosperous construction company to do the work at no charge. Mrs. Arthur S. Parks, whose husband was the president of United Sash & Door Company, contributed the cost of twelve new hospital beds.

A site for the new baby camp was chosen 200 feet west of the former site in a wide parkland space backed up by the Little Arkansas River. Being deeper into the park, and thus farther away from surrounding residences, its location was convenient, yet serene and beautiful. In order to begin operating as soon as possible for the summer of 1920, the plan was rushed into action. Work began on June 21.

In the following week, June 26 saw another \$1722 in donations, which the *Wichita Eagle* reported were coming in rapidly. At that time the Elks Lodge led the inventory of donors with the highest contribution of \$150. Several individuals including Mentholatum entrepreneur A.A. Hyde, and Mrs. C.G. Stanley (wife of former governor William Eugene Stanley) gave \$50 each. The list contained names of men, women, and local businesses. In many instances, members of the same family gave individual contributions. The *Eagle* showed no compunction at stating the dollar amounts given by all 119 persons or groups named in the news article.

Due to the circumstances, initial plans called for a fireproof building to be built of hollow tile and concrete with brick and concrete pillars and a tile roof. Architect Schmidt also designed the building specifically for its purpose. The camp had an open crib room and an isolation room. It was equipped with a kitchen, bathroom, and laundry. To compensate for the heat of Kansas' summers, large windows with screens and awnings allowed proper air circulation as well as protection from rain. Screens on doors and windows prevented unsanitary conditions caused by flies and insects. The facility accommodated 20 babies.

When the new camp opened in August 1920, Mrs. M.C. Campbell, President of the Board, claimed that it "is the best summer home for sick babies west of Chicago." The name of the facility was changed at that time to Fresh Air Baby Camp.

Community members continued to work through the next six years to raise money to support the Fresh Air Baby Camp. In addition to the monetary contributions commonly called "subscriptions", various

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benefits included public dances at the Wintergarden Ballroom and sales of picture postcards that showed views of the camp in the park. Participants of the annual Baby Camp Bazaar each December sold handmade articles and dolls, and took orders for homemade cakes. The advocacy by national Progressives for the use of government resources for public health and universal health care for children was not fully realized at the time. But at the local level, the Wichita Community Chest provided \$1000 per year during the early 1920s toward operating expenses for the camp. The new facility operated in Riverside Park from 1920 through 1925. Fifty-two babies were cared for during the last summer in the park.

Wesley Hospital opened a new, up-to-date building on North Hillside Avenue in 1924 and in 1926 the baby camp project moved to new quarters in that facility. The move enabled the program to continue all year round, instead of operating in the summer months only. Wesley Hospital continued to focus on the care of mothers and infants by maintaining a modern Maternity Department and sponsoring "Baby Day" parties for mothers and their children who had been born at Wesley. The hospital also established a Mothers Endowment to provide for women who could not afford professional care.

The Wichita Area Girl Scouts

The removal of the Fresh Air Baby Camp to the hospital grounds left the airy, well-constructed building in the park available for use. The city then leased it to another children's program that was rooted in a national organization, the Girl Scouts of America. For the next 75 years, the Wichita Area Girl Scout Council used the building as a day camp and troop activity house. In 2001, the Girl Scouts relinquished the use of the building, but many women, now with children of their own, share fond memories associated with girl scouting and family gatherings at "Little House". Because the structure is located on public parkland, ownership of the structure has reverted to the City of Wichita.

The sturdy little building of 1920 with the tile roof and big windows remains eight decades later as proof of Wichita's dedication to its children. It still stands at 1221 West Eleventh Street in the pleasant, shady area that brought comfort to its original inhabitants. It was created by the love and commitment of the local people, maintained its position in the community for many years, and represents a legacy to the social conscience and spirit of Wichita.

Criterion C: Architecture

Architect **Lorenz Schmidt** was born in Clyde, Kansas April 25, 1884. He was the eldest of nine children born to Bernhardt and Magdalene (Gram) Schmidt. Typical for the time and being the eldest of nine children, Lorenz began working the farm at a young age. He left school after he completed the 7th grade to work full time on the farm. When he was a young man of 18, he lost his leg in a farming accident. No longer able to work the farm, he went back to finish high school. Schmidt soon found a job as a barber that paid room and board so he didn't have to traverse the three miles between home and school twice a

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day. He finished high school in Emporia, Kansas and attended Kansas State Normal School (now Emporia State University) for one year.¹ He worked his way through college using his barber trade, attending the University of Illinois and graduating with a B.S. in architecture in 1913. He came to Wichita in 1915 and practiced here until his death in 1952. Schmidt was elected to the 1951 class of fellows of the American Institute of Architects.² According to his obituary published on the front page of the Wichita Eagle, February 6, 1952, he was the only practicing architect from Kansas ever to a fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. The press release announcing his selection cited his effort in the passage of the Kansas Architectural Registration legislation; helped organize the Wichita Association of Architects in 1945 and served as its first president; helped organize the Kansas Builders forum; served on the Wichita Planning Commission; had been active with the Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Community Chest and Boy Scout council as criteria for his selection as an AIA fellow; and established annual scholarships at Kansas State and Kansas University.

Schmidt designed a wide array of structures that remain part of the Wichita landscape. He is most well known for his school buildings. A few of the schools he designed for the Wichita School District are: Horace Mann (demolished) Elementary, Washington (demolished), Linwood (demolished), East High School, Hamilton Middle School, Blessed Sacrament School, James Allison, and Roosevelt. This association with the Wichita School District helped launch his career throughout the region. His list of Kansas schools includes schools in Newton, Andover, Augusta, Belle Plain, Clyde, McPherson, Liberal, Hugoton, Clearwater, Ellinwood, Colwich and Dodge City. His blueprint record also includes the Stillwater, Oklahoma high school.³ Schmidt also designed churches, hospitals, commercial buildings and residences. Some of the more well known commercial and religious structures in Wichita that were designed by Schmidt are Hillcrest Apartments, Ranney-Davis Warehouse, Petroleum Building (Ellis-Singleton), Brown Building, St. James Episcopal Church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. A number of his significant residential structures are found in College Hill, Midtown and Riverside. Six of the houses on Belmont between Douglas and Central are his designs.

Never shirking his civic duties, in addition to designing the Fresh Air Baby Camp, Schmidt did architectural work for the planned war housing projects during World War II at Hilltop Manor and Planeview in Wichita, as well as war housing projects in Great Bend, Independence, Liberal, Pratt, Victoria, Junction City and Independence.⁴

Schmidt died from cancer at his home in Wichita on February 5, 1952.

¹ Wichita Beacon, February 25, 1923, Sunday Magazine, pg. 1.

² Wichita Eagle, April 29, 1951, pg. 10.

³ City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office and Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections, *Guide to Drawings by Wichita Architect Lorenz Schmidt*.

⁴ Wichita Eagle, February 6, 1952, pg. 4.

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Contractor **George Herman Siedhoff** was born in St. Louis, Missouri on March 7, 1878. He married Lydia Louise Wilhelmina Amelia Hagemann (b. 1883, d. 1964), also from St. Louis, on November 7, 1900. He learned his trade as a concrete construction foreman in St. Louis and reference was made to his association with the St. Louis American League Baseball Park. Concrete construction was becoming the preferred method of construction at the turn of the century and Siedhoff became known for his thorough knowledge of concrete construction. Around 1905, he went to Virginia for two years where he worked as a construction superintendent for projects in Norfolk and Richmond.⁵ One of his projects was the rebuilding of Murphy's Hotel in Richmond, listed at that time as one of the noteworthy hotels of the south. He moved to Kansas City in 1908 and began his own contracting company with a working capital of \$12.50. His first project for Curtis and Thwing made him a profit of \$3,500 launching his career as a successful building contractor.



GEORGE HERMAN SIEDHOFF

Among his projects in Kansas City between 1908 and 1917, were Mercy Hospital, Rialto Building, Karnes School, J.L. Case Building, Bonfils Building, Higbee Building and scores of others.⁶ While he was still operating his construction company in Kansas City, he got the contract to build 12 buildings in Wichita for Standard Oil Company during the summer of 1916.⁷ Siedhoff moved his operation permanently to Wichita in 1917. Siedhoff Construction Company built many of the major buildings in Wichita that included a wide variety of building types. "As a builder, George Siedhoff's mark is seen in Wichita from College Hill to the Orient shops and from the Red Star Mill to the Marland Refinery Building."⁸ Siedhoff had a strong sense of community and built both the Mercy Hospital in Kansas City and the Fresh Air Baby Camp in Wichita for only the cost of the materials.

Buildings constructed by Siedhoff Construction Company— Fresh Air Baby Camp, Belmont Arches 20th Century Club, Hillcrest Apartments, Allis Hotel (demolished), Wheeler Kelly Hagney Building (NRHP), Brown Building (Wichita Register of Historic Places), Wichita Broadview Hotel, Emporia Broadview Hotel, the Forum (demolished), Innes Warehouse (Warehouse and Jobbers NR Historic District), Grant Telegraph Building (Warehouse and Jobbers NR Historic District), Uptown Theater, Wesley Hospital, First National Bank Building, Shirkmere Apartment Building, Union National Bank Building, Woolf Brothers Building (demolished), Kaufman Building, J. Arch Butts residence, Siedhoff Residence, Sedgwick County Jail (Munger Building north of Old Sedgwick County Courthouse), US Post Office and

⁵ Wichita Beacon, November 1, 1925, microfiche, Wichita Public Library.

⁶ Kansas City Star, ca. 1915, vertical files, Wichita Public Library.

⁷ Wichita Morning Eagle, April 23, 1916, pg. 5.

⁸ Wichita Beacon, July 15, 1928, pg. 23

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Federal Building (NRHP), Smith Bakery (Douglas Photographic), Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Depot in Newton, Kansas and many others. Hahner, Foreman & Harness Construction Company maintains an archive of 154 blueprints of Siedhoff's construction projects in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.⁹

Siedhoff was not only a contractor, he had other varied business affiliations. He was the president and owner of the Broadview Hotels Company, director Braley Aircraft Company, president of Supreme Propeller Company, vice-president of Braley School of Flying¹⁰, and president of Eastborough Estates Company.¹¹ Siedhoff retired from his construction business in 1934 and devoted his time to his investments and the Broadview Oil Company.¹²

Siedhoff died September 9, 1966 at the age of 88 in Emporia, Kansas.

Summary

The Fresh Air Baby Camp/Girl Scout Little House qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion A because it represents a nationwide trend to improve health conditions for the common man and the raising of social conscience to provide health services to the less fortunate by rallying community activists to provide funding for such a facility. Once the Fresh Air Baby Camp outgrew its facility and relocated to the Wesley Hospital Grounds, another national organization dedicated to social well being of young girls housed their program at that location for the next 75 years. Additionally the Fresh Air Baby Camp/Girl Scout Little House qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion C because it was designed and built by two of Wichita's and the region's prominent citizens, architect Lorenz Schmidt and contractor George H. Siedhoff.

⁹ City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office and Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections, *Guide to Drawings and Jobs of Wichita Contractor George H. Siedhoff*.

¹⁰ Who's Who in Wichita, 1929, Robert M. Baldwin Publishing Company: Wichita, Kansas, pg. 179

¹¹ Wichita Beacon, March 12, 1930, pg. 11

¹² Wichita Eagle, January 27, 1952, Special Section pg. 5

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 11

Fresh Air Baby Camp
Name of property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

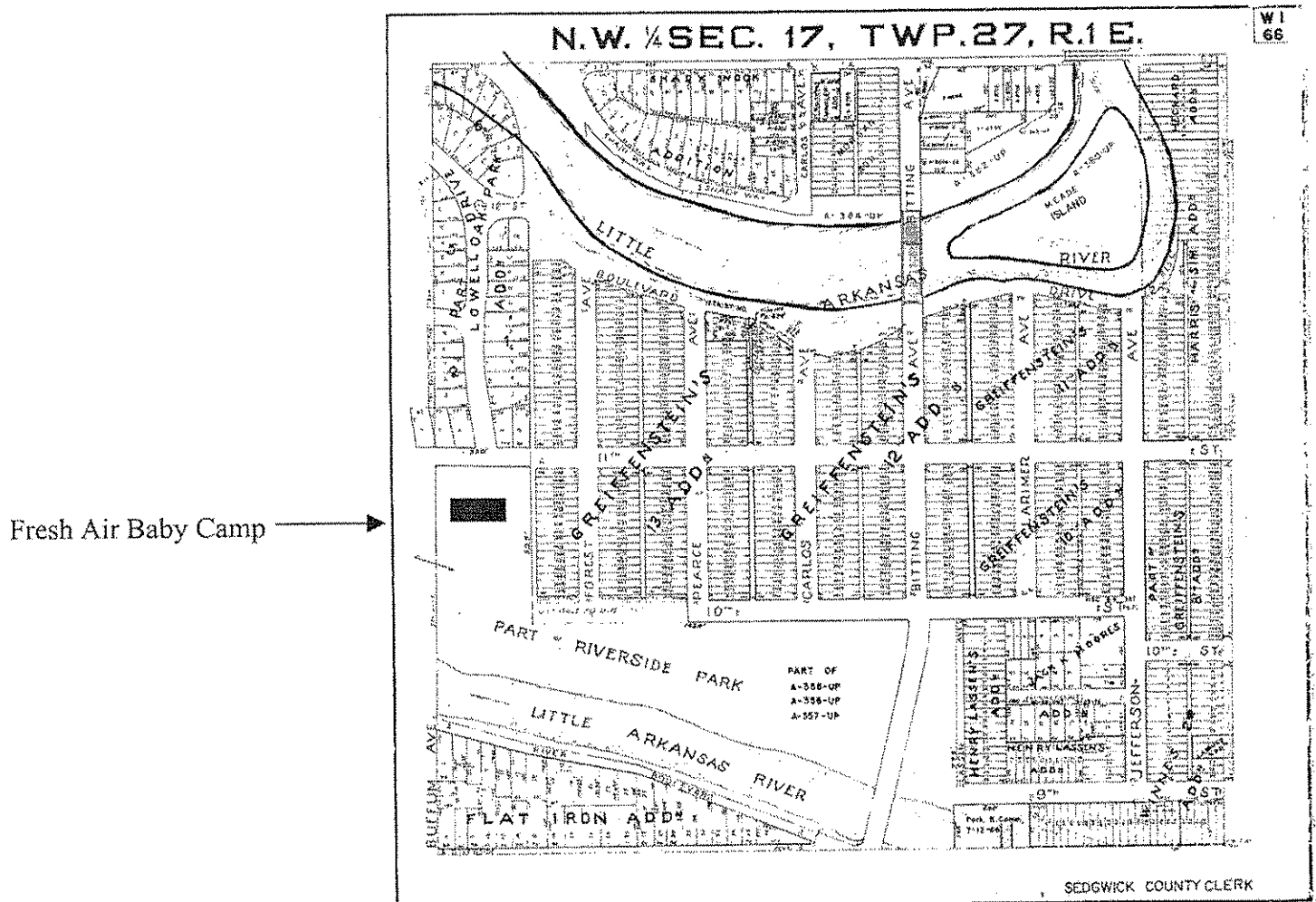
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in North Riverside Park and includes only the building and a ten-foot perimeter surrounding the building. It is located three blocks west of the Bitting National Register Historic District.

Legal Description: BEG 1746 FT E SW Corner NW 1/4 N 755 FT W 1424 FT N 585 FT SE ALG River to PT on SEC 11 E to BEG.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Original location of the building in park.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 12

Fresh Air Baby Camp
Name of property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to the ten photographs listed below:

Property: Fresh Air Baby Camp

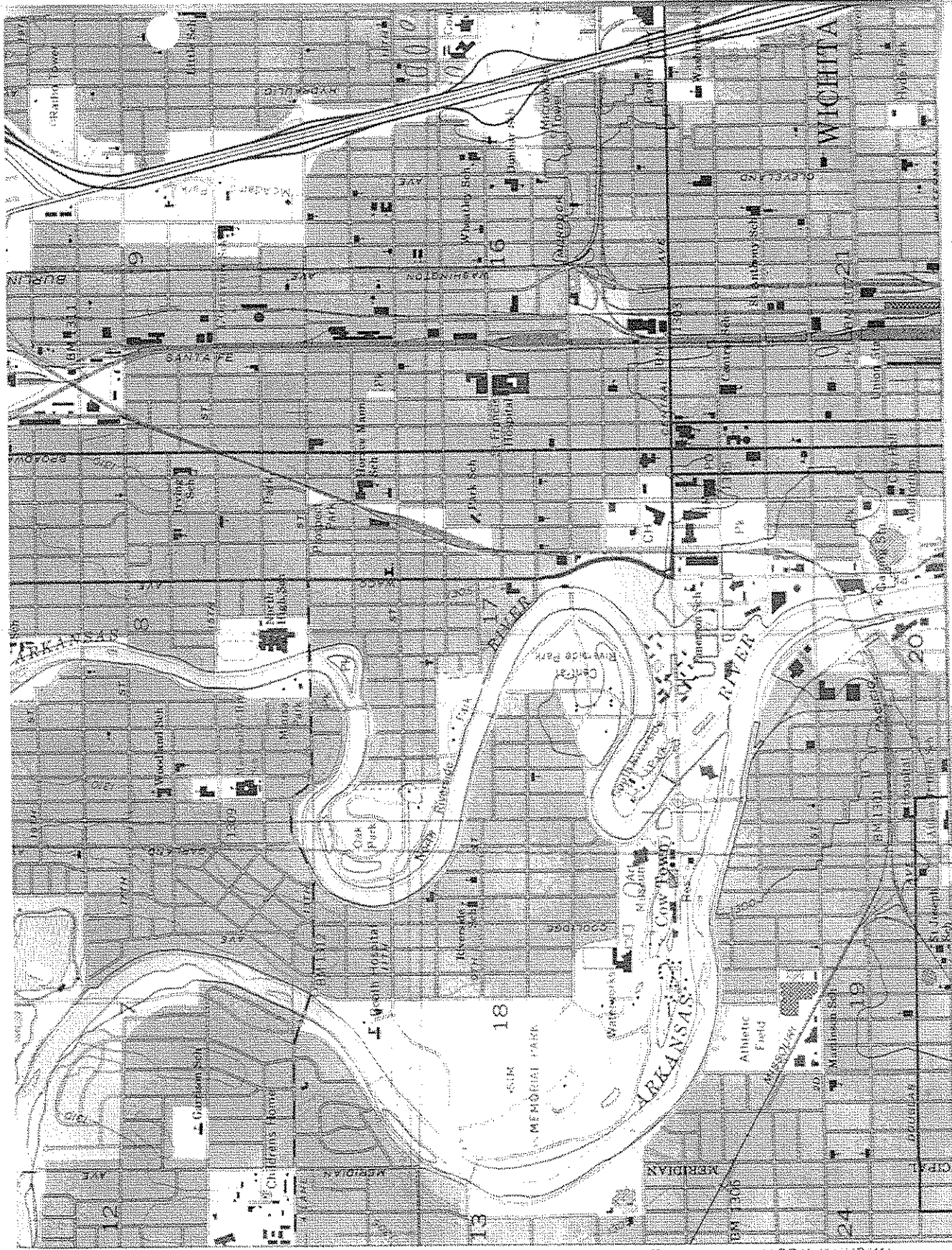
Location: Sedgwick County, Kansas

Photographer: Kathy L. Morgan, Photographer

Date of Photographs: October 2004

Location of digital images: Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

1. North elevation, facing S
2. Entrance pediment detail, facing ESE
3. West elevation, facing ESE
4. South elevation, facing NE
5. South elevation, facing NW
6. East elevation, facing WSW
7. Interior window configuration, facing NE
8. Interior end wall fireplace, facing W
9. Interior entrance, looking WNW
10. Door on south elevation and water fountain trough, looking north



475

42°30'

WICHITA, KANSAS
 WICHITA, KANSAS
 1-10-55

Zone 14
 645260 E
 4174060 N

17

473

6559 11 NW
 (WICHITA WEST)